

THE JOURNAL.

W. R. HEARST.

102 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1896.

Entered in the Post Office in New York as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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THE WEATHER.

Official forecasts for to-day indicate that it will be fair and warmer. Southwesterly winds.

The lobbyist seems to have taken charge of the corridors at Albany.

The execution of Bat Shea will definitely close the epoch of intimidation at the polls.

The coal men say they are not afraid, but they are looking very cautiously around the corner.

Brer Raines was careful to leave local option out of his amendments for the liquor tax bill.

The starving garment workers want to know why the contractors cannot be held to their agreement.

Formosa doesn't seem inclined to stay Japanese, and that famous army will have to be brought out again.

Mr. Platt is greasing the diminutive Passett with oily compliments before he proceeds to swallow him whole.

The new Custom House is to arise on the site of the old one. Let it be worthy of the commercial importance of the port.

The Maher-Fitzsimmons party is now pursued by the Mexican authorities. There is nothing left but to try a balloon.

Salisbury is willing to arbitrate if Venezuela will agree that the British settlers shall be left where they are. This is humorous.

Rhodes hurried back to Africa as fast as if he had been fired out of a gun. He was afraid Parliament might seek to detain him.

Mr. Croker talked harmony in his speech at the great dinner, and now he is sitting up nights to heal the discord which his speech caused.

Enforcement of the excise statute in Brooklyn is the subject of numerous mass-meetings there lately. Meantime the side door works with its accustomed accuracy.

That South Dakota's aversion to bonds of matrimony extends to all kinds is evident from the fact that it was the lowest in the list of States in bidding for the recent Government loan.

SWEEP VIVISECTION AWAY!

It is said that vivisection in its most cruel phases is in full blast at the famous medical school of Harvard, and the Boston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has taken up the case, and promises to investigate it. There seems no doubt that we can afford to wait until, with the Roentgen light, we can see the interior of animals' bodies without tearing the poor things to pieces, and can learn all that we want to know of their circulation and respiration in a humane and decent fashion. Vivisection is barbarous, and ought to be doomed. Dr. Bigelow, late professor of surgery at Harvard, used to say: "Watch the students at a vivisection. It is the blood and suffering, not the science, that rivets their breathless attention. If hospital service makes young students less tender of suffering, vivisection deadens their humanity, and begets indifference to it."

This is a very stern indictment of the practice. Is it not about time to relinquish a method of observation so universally condemned? Can a society whose self-imposed mission is the protection of the dumb creatures inferior to us, but none the less entitled to lead lives free from horrible torture, be blamed for taking every means for preventing the growth of vivisection?

Dole, of Hawaii, is getting ready to give Minister Willis his passports. All because Willis wouldn't attend a ceremony on the Hawaiian national holiday.

WURSTER AS HAMLET.

If Mayor Wurster makes a success in the title role of the performance of "Hamlet," which the Hanover Club, of Brooklyn, proposes to give in order to wipe out a debt of \$10,000, a new way for extinguishing municipal obligations will be suggested. The necessity for some such innovation is apparent. Brooklyn has nearly reached its debt limit; Long Island City is handicapped in carrying out the plans of Patrick Jerome Gleason by its outstanding I. O. U.'s, and Mayor Strong is accordingly raising a question about whether it would be fair to all of the Greater New York to shoulder the debts of the individual municipalities. The true solution, if the chief executive of Brooklyn proves to be a good Hamlet, is to repeat the benefit performance for the municipality, or else take in Mayor Gleason to play the part of grave-digger, and divide the proceeds with the city beyond Newtown Creek.

Possibly this is not a new suggestion. The Hanover, prompted by its chief pride, Mayor Wurster, may already have such plans, intending the first performance of "Hamlet" simply as a rehearsal of the one to be given to

save Brooklyn's fair financial fame. The basis for this conclusion is that the Hanover, as the club of politicians, considers itself under obligations to maintain the city's standing—financially as well as politically. Its good judgment is shown by the selection of Mr. Wurster for the star part, and by the giving of other roles to city officials and ward leaders. To be sure, the Mayor's whisks are not like those of Hamlet—if, indeed, the Dane had whisks at all—but Wurster is given to soliloquizing, and that is more important than hirsute qualifications. Even if he should not prove to be qualified for the part, his position will make him more potent as an attracting star than if he were a prize fighter or a bridge jumper.

The appeal of President Cisneros, of the Cuban Republic, to the American people for recognition is a stirring one. Is it to remain unheeded?

THE RAID ON THE CITIES.

The question now before the principal cities of this State is whether they will submit to be robbed, to supply funds to be employed in appropriations with which rural statesmen hope to dazzle their constituents. Will they submit to deliver up their money so that the tax rate of the State may not be raised, and the party in power may appear to be gifted with an Aladdin's lamp, which it has only to rub when it wishes to see that beneficent genii, Platt, bringing it magnificent gifts? After all, what is a little thing like robbing a city, among friends? Five millions is wanted. Five millions, to be expended upon Homes for the Feeble Minded, decorations of the cells in Sing Sing Prison, and armories—armories everywhere in the distinctly rural portion of the State. Whence this passion for armories? One would think that each rustic member had promised to get one, and that each is vying with all his colleagues in the chase after armories.

The Legislature, always avid of junketing, sees a chance for an investigation, and is about appointing a committee to ferret out the origin of this hunger and thirst for armories. Money which ought to go to charitable purposes, in the various cities from which they are to be wrung, Mr. Raines would divert to the building of these martial structures. He covets the proud distinction of having dowered the State with a score of armories, in which the militia may keep its arms and execute its evolutions, without costing the localities where the edifices are reared a penny. All shall come out of the pockets of the publishers of New York. In short, it is a case of Republican bleed publican. And Mr. Raines flourishes his lance, before he has obtained permission to do any bleeding, with a ferocious joy which shows how he would plunge down upon his task the moment it is permissible.

It does not seem to occur to the legislators who are engaged in this reprehensible and partisan scheme that they are doing anything wrong. They account themselves perfectly honest men, and would feel insulted if you should hint at the possibility of their keeping in their possession five cents which they had not rightfully acquired. But to ransom the cities a little: is there any harm in that? Perish the thought; it is only a political game which is legitimate and "smart." It helps to keep the cities in their place; otherwise those impudent communities would actually be trying to take a part in the government of the State. Thus they reason, and go on heaping up appropriations until even the pruning knife of the startled Governor cannot keep them from assuming scandalous proportions. Never mind, they say; the cities will pay, the tax rate will not rise, and the trick will be played.

Now is the time to crush this little conspiracy. Delay is not only dangerous; it would be fatal. The Raines bill should be annihilated. It is rotten to the core. Under the guise of regulating the liquor traffic, it enables the Legislature to put its hands deep into the pockets of the cities, and take what it desires. There are kindred measures which will be put forward if by unlucky chance the Raines bill were to succeed. There has as yet been no protest at Albany from the cities sufficient in size and volume to frighten the conspirators. But unless the great cities mean to go tamely into servitude, it must come, and come soon!

Lieutenant-Governor Saxton admits that the present fight among Republicans may be a menace to Republican success in the coming Fall.

SCHOOL REFORM IMPERATIVE.

The best thing that can be said of the Pavey bill for school reform is that it abolishes the "trustee system," and leaves the control of the schools of the city of New York in the hands of the Board of Education, where it ought to be. The Strauss bill, now before the Legislature, which seeks to perpetuate the domination of the schools by the politicians, should be swept away. The influence of politics upon our metropolitan schools is already sadly conspicuous; and it was that and nothing else which led to the harsh criticism passed upon the scheme of education in this city at a Greater New York hearing in Brooklyn the other day.

It is an insult to true Americanism to mix politics of the type which our New York bosses have made odious with the instruction of the young. Mr. The

Abram S. Hewitt and Daniel G. Rollins know whereof they speak when they say that the true thing to do is to centralize the power in the hands of the Board of Education. Ward trustees have had their day, and men of public spirit, unselfish and representative of the highest culture, must take hold of educational affairs.

When that has been accomplished we shall hear no more of the scandals which have been so unpleasantly notorious in past years. We shall manage to have school houses enough for the constantly increasing school population; we shall not see bands of children in the streets when they ought to be at study; and we shall not feel that the invisible yet powerful hand of the politician is holding back those who would make the public school system a chief glory of the great city.

The Government intimates that a way has been opened for Waller's release. Up to date it doesn't seem to be through the prison doors.

LOWER TELEPHONE RATES.

The committee on telephone legislation appointed by the Board of Trade and Transportation of this city is diligent in its efforts to reduce telephone rates to a proper figure. Three years ago it caused a bill to be introduced in the Legislature for regulating these rates, but it was ably fought by the counsel of the telephone companies. Now, amended so as to meet all valid objections, it has been brought forward again—in the Senate by Senator Brush, in the lower House by Assemblyman Audett. It provides that six months after the passage of the act the maximum charge to subscribers and customers by any telephone company in the State for a year's service shall be, in cities of one million inhabitants and over, one hundred and twenty-five dollars; in cities of half a million, and less than a million, eighty-five dollars; in those of one hundred thousand, and less than half a million, forty-eight dollars, and in smaller places from twenty-seven to thirty-six dollars.

These are reasonable rates, which permit all companies to pay ten per cent upon all investment in addition to interest upon bonded indebtedness. They would relieve the public of what it considers an unfair charge for the use of an indispensable invention, and would doubtless greatly extend the employment of the telephone. The bill ought to pass.

The United States Consul on the Isthmus says that the Panama Canal is certain to be built. Is that the reason of the delay in pushing things in Nicaragua?

Senator Smith confirms Senator Frye's opinion of England's unfriendliness to this country. John Bull will be startled when he is convinced that America regards him as an enemy.

The Sultan wants our protests against his conduct sent to the Six Great Powers who are charged with keeping in order. We don't stand upon etiquette in taking a murderer by the collar.

The wheelmen are in convention in Baltimore, and clamor for good roads. Bad ones have given them so many untired wheels that they are tireless in their demands for improvement.

McKane's hopes of a pardon are daily growing beautifully less. The Journal correspondent at Albany has unearthed the fact that Governor Morton, as long ago as January 5, being advised to seek the opinion of Judge Bartlett, the trial judge who sentenced McKane, as to the expediency of pardoning him, did so. Judge Bartlett promptly announced that he saw no reason why McKane should not serve out his full sentence. After this it is evident that appeals to executive clemency for the master of the famous "rotten borough" will prove useless.

The reappearance of Schlatter, the mysterious healer, as a member of a chain gang in a little Californian town, where a sentence for vagrancy had placed him, is calculated to add to the public reverence for his powers. In blind obedience to some mysterious command to do penance, he has wandered through the wild Southwestern land—even affronting the dangers of the Yuma Desert. Will he ever take up his mystical healing again? Does he feel his strange power departing, and is he seeking by aimless wandering to recruit his forces? It seems cruel that he should be so harshly treated by rural justice. Even Islam is kind to mystics and madmen, and lets them go their erratic ways, unimpeded.

It is a good time to recall to mind some of the phrases in Samuel J. Tilden's famous coast defence letter of December, 1885. In that document he said: "It is impossible to foresee, in the recent scramble of the European Powers for acquisition of colonies, how soon an occasion may arise for our putting in practice the Monroe Doctrine. It is clear that there ought to be some relation between our assertion of that Doctrine and our preparation to maintain it." He then characterized "our total want of preparation" as "discreditable to our foresight and to our prudence." And he continues: "The best guarantee against aggression, the best assurance that our diplomacy will be successful and pacific, and that our rights and honor will be respected by other nations, is in their knowledge that we are in a situation to vindicate our reputation and interests." If Mr. Tilden were alive to-day he would certainly be an earnest pleader for the perfection of our coast defences, and might be accounted a "jingo."

London Gay and London Grave.

London, Feb. 1.—Very Parisian at least in its effect upon a stranger has been the London mode of observing two recent birthdays of the great. These were the natal days of General Gordon, of Chinese and Egyptian fame, and of Charles I. To both of these are statues and both are in Trafalgar square.

When Gordon's birthday came his monument suddenly blossomed with wreaths and dord trophies shaped like crosses, hearts and circles, and each enclosing some sentiment on a card or on a sheet of note paper, written in ink. Almost all these offerings of the people were, as the famous Irishman put it, "à la mode of the Government," because it abandoned Gordon in Egypt. The one that capped the rest and expressed all that they left unsaid was a beautiful wreath to two of England's mistreated heroes, "Gordon, the Deserted, and Jameson, the Betrayed."

Within two or three days, before the Gordon decorations had dried or wilted, the pedestal of the statue of Charles I. took on a similar appearance, being coated with wreaths and flowers and written sentiments. It was astonishing to see what a depth of sorrow and admiration still exists in a large part of the English mind for the weak and wavering "White Klug," who lost his head at Whitehall 247 years ago and exchanged, as he said, an earthly for a celestial crown. His pediment was glorified with white roses, white lilies, with ivy and with laurel. These were sent there not only by the White Rose League, the Legitimist Club, which believes that Victoria is not the rightful ruler of England, and by the St. Germans Order, but by scores of individual citizens. One of the cards declared in French that England had three great murders to answer for—those of Charles I., Mary Queen of Scots and Joan of Arc. Early in the morning, while a crowd had already gathered before the monument, an elderly gentleman came and threw himself on his knees and prayed, apparently, to the dead King. It is interesting, as showing the great freedom of the citizens here, to know that though this adoration of Charles is apt to be treasonous and coupled with the belief that Victoria is an usurper, yet all the inscriptions on the statue's pediment were submitted to and authorized by the officials, and when, a year ago, the officials endeavored to end the practice of loosing public sentiment in this way, there arose a prodigious outcry, and the authorities were obliged to give way.

One of the daily newspapers, in speaking of the palatial lodging houses that Lord Rowton is putting up in London, says: "At the present rate of progress a dossier will become synonymous with a sybarite." A dossier in England is what we call a lodger in a Bowers lodging house. "Doss" is the East End slang for a bed, and so a man who has nothing more than a bed to lay claim to—and not that if he hasn't the price—becomes a dossier. The movement to improve the condition of the dossier was begun by Lord Shaftesbury by means of a Lodging House act by Parliament in 1851. Nothing was done until 1879, when the corporation of Glasgow opened two improved lodging houses. In 1887 Lord Radstock began to interest himself in the plan, and by 1894 he had built three houses in the East End; but the finest and most modern and best-dressed lodgings was opened in Vauxhall in 1892.

Rowton's house was thereafter called "the Dossers' Palace," but within a few days he has opened a far finer one called "Rowton House." It is at the corner of Klug's Cross road, opposite the Royal Free Hospital, in the heart of London. He has built it by the selling of shares in a stock company, but he holds nearly all the stock himself.

In each of the hundreds of neat little bedrooms is an iron bedstead, a chair and a shelf, with clothes hooks below the shelf, and the wide-awake managers point out that the books under each shelf are so placed "that they cannot be reached from the partition of the adjoining room." For everything, baths included, each dossier is to pay sixpence a night, or 12 cents of our money, or three shillings and sixpence a week, which is 84 cents.

During the past six years poor foreign Jews, such as we have lately become familiar with in New York, have been pouring into the Whitechapel district in London in such great numbers that their more prosperous and intelligent co-religionists have been perplexed with the problem how to care for them as they arrived. Some years ago a Whitechapel synagogue in Fenchurch street, known as the Hambro Synagogue, was pulled down. The United Synagogue, of which Lord Rothschild is president, agreed that another church building should be built in its place and in a more central locality. Beyond purchasing a favorable site nothing has been done by these wealthy Hebrews, who represent the twelve important synagogues and Jewish districts of the world's capital. They paid \$75,000 for the site, raised the money on the value of the old Fenchurch street land and by means of donations. In the meantime they have hired a great assembly hall for use for worship, but even that is not large enough. Therefore the other day the council of the United Synagogue met and agreed to do a very great work for the Anglicization and general improvement of the foreigners in question and their poor neighbors of the same faith. They are now pledged to build a new Hambro Synagogue large enough to accommodate 10,000 Jews and 400 foreign converts—two not sitting together, of course. At this building they will add accommodations for the Beth Hamedrash, the Hebrew library now attached to the great Synagogue of London; also a courthouse for the Beth-Din, the Jewish courthouse, with suitable waiting-rooms for witnesses, suitors and officers.

The theatres have quieted down from the spasm of excitement that thrilled them when Jameson made his bold ride into the Transvaal and the General Empress wrote his astonishing telegram. Elucidations are still reciting the rhyming balderdash of the laureate and singing the general defence for war with Germany, but no one indulges in riotous applause as before. The three remarkable successes of the drama are three pieces that we know all about in America: "The Sign of the Cross," "The Prisoner of Zenda," and "The Professor's Story." The "Sign of the Cross" is a play of the past, and the two hundred and forty-eight night is at the end of this week. "The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown," "The Struggle of Dames," and "A Woman's Reason" are the second, third and fourth of the series. The rank of the Winter's successes. The newest piece, "The Pool of the Family," by Fergus Hume, is the very well spoken of, "Michael and His Lost Angel," was taken in after a very short experience. 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